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February 4, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE - 3 PAGES (Including This Cover)

**Commissioner for Patents
POB 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Transmitted to USPTO Central Fax No. 703-872-9306**

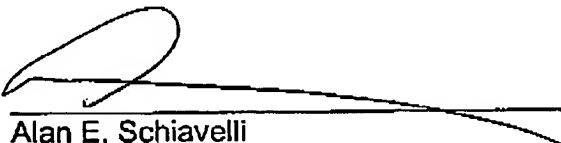
Re: Applicant: Soraoka et al.
Serial No: 10/826,386
Title: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND SEMICONDUCTOR
MANUFACTURING LINE USING THE SAME
Group: 3652
Examiner: Brahan, T.

Sir:

Applicant hereby transmits the attached "AMENDMENT (2 pages regarding the above-identified application).

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that the attached "AMENDMENT (pages)" is being
FORMALLY TRANSMITTED via the USPTO Central Fax No. 703-872-9306 on **4**
February 2005.


Alan E. Schiavelli

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520.34692V17

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Soraoka et al.
Serial No: 10/826,386
Filed: April 19, 2004
Title: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING LINE USING THE
SAME
Group: 3652
Examiner: Brahan, T.

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 3, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2005 in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants elect the invention of Group I, including claims 1-6, 12, 14, 20-27 and 32-35, drawn to a vacuum processing apparatus.

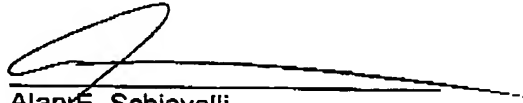
In response to the election of species requirement in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants elect the species identified by the Examiner as Species I, shown in Figure 3. It is submitted that all of claims 1-6, 12, 14, 20-27 and 32-35 read the elected species. It is also submitted that all of claims 1-6, 12, 14, 20-27 and 32-35 are generic to all of species 1-5.

Examination of claims 1-6, 12, 14, 20-27, and 32-35 is requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No.520.34692V17) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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AES/at